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LUTON TOWN V HUDDERSFIELD TOWN

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME 2021-22
SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFF SEMI-FINAL FIRST LEG

13.05.22 | KO: 7:45PM
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THANK YOU, HATTERS!

As we now know this is our final edition of Our Town for the season, I would like to thank all supporters who have bought a copy and everyone who has contributed throughout the campaign.

Thanks especially to club historian Roger Wash for his endless stream of articles, Simon Pitts for his vital statistics, Ryan Payne for the opposition profiles and Dylan Bhundia, Simon Oxley, Simon Parsell and the directors for their regular columns.

Not forgetting my in-house colleagues Ed Smith, Bradley Dixon and Dan Briard for their superb designs, Junior Hatters pages and tireless writing skills...the latter often working in the darkness of night as we're driving back from away games with a deadline to meet the next day, while Dec O'Reilly edits the brilliant videos that have appeared across our channels this season.

Finally, a huge thanks to Nathan, Mick, Harty and all their staff, and these boys below (and the rest of the squad, of course) for what they've done on the pitch to make the media team's job so enjoyable and the whole club proud. Good luck, lads!

Stuart Hammonds - Editor



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OUR TOWN - LUTON TOWN OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

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Kenilworth Road Stadium, 1 Maple Road East,
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A PACKED KENNY, UNDER THE LIGHTS. THREE GAMES AWAY FROM THE PREMIER LEAGUE. LET'S DO THIS TOGETHER AND MAKE MORE HISTORY FOR THIS WONDERFUL FOOTBALL CLUB.

Good evening and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for the final time this season as we host the first leg of the play-off semi-final against Huddersfield.

It is brilliant to be able to say that, given all the adversity we have faced during the campaign, but we don't want to stop here. The goal is to become a Premier League club and we know we have the chance of playing three games to achieve that. Each one will be the biggest in Luton Town's history because they are the next games.

I would like to welcome Carlos Corberan, his players and staff, and the Huddersfield supporters who have travelled south for what promises to be a massive occasion. We wish them all a safe journey home and look forward to making the same trip over the weekend for the second leg on Monday.

Last Saturday was a special day, not just for me but everyone affiliated with the football club. Of course, we were pleased to get over the line against a resilient Reading side who made it very difficult for us on the day. Paul Ince is a friend of mine, but I expected nothing less and that shows the integrity of the Championship.

Fortunately, we didn't have to rely on anyone else and with Harry's quick-thinking, we made it to our 75-point target, which we had identified at the start of the season when we analysed what it has taken historically to get into the top six.

Many outside of the club would have doubted such a lofty target, but in house we have believed in this process of taking eight points from every block of five matches to give us that golden game against Reading.

Two years ago, at the same stage, we needed to beat Blackburn Rovers to stay in the Championship. That was unbelievably different pressure, but we survived then and

this time we thrived in the situation to put us on the brink of something truly remarkable.

That isn't luck. We have our methods and we have an exceptional group who work so hard day in, day out. We have had more injuries this season than I have ever experienced before and we have competed with sides who have far superior budgets. Not by fluke, but through hard work.

It has been a combined effort from everyone at the football club to get us in the position we find ourselves in this evening, and you have a big part to play once again.

The noise right from the first minute and throughout against Reading was truly special and we need that once again tonight. We have achieved our highest league finish for 30 years, but we want more and we know we have the connection from the stands to the pitch for you all to help us.

A packed Kenny, under the lights. Three games away from the Premier League.

Let's do this together and make it another more history for this wonderful football club.

COYH!

NATHAN JONES

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NOTES FROM THE BOARDROOM

GARY SWEET

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

If certain beer-makers did long weekends, this would be it! Starting under the lights of Kenilworth Road and bookended with a return semi-final leg on Monday, with the winner gaining entry to football's richest game.

We welcome Huddersfield, who were also among the outsiders to finish in this position before a ball was kicked, but who have had a terrific season to finish third.

The Terriers have had the privilege of being in the Premier League in the very recent past, but have sensibly and respectably felt the need to cut their cloth this season while other clubs in the 'parachute elite' arrogantly keep their heads buried in the sand.

It's heartening to see two clubs, working so hard on a relative shoestring, still infiltrating the play-off places above so many other clubs on the opposite end of the spending spectrum, with one of us guaranteed to fight for a seat at the top table in a battle at Wembley.

It gives me great pleasure to tell you that we have the four managers who most deserve their legendary status, all in the same place tonight. Four people who have done more than any others to put us in the place we are today, here at the same time.

With Nathan Jones and Mick Harford leading us into battle tonight, we are delighted to play director's box hosts to David Pleat and John Still in a supporting capacity.

We welcome the men they are, as much as what they did for this football club, because they are all honourable gentlemen who in some way or other have returned to Kenilworth Road because they know what a special place it is, and what a remarkable achievement Nathan has accomplished so far.



Pleaty had already led us to the top-flight in his glorious first spell before returning to take the reins for another four years when he signed a young Nathan from Merthyr Tydfil in 1995.

Although he would soon depart, abandoning Nathan's Hatters career in the hands of a more forgettable leader, we have Pleaty to thank for igniting the Luton fire in his heart, as well as being the first to bring us our hero, Big Mick.

Without Stilly, who may have just had the single spell in charge, who knows where we might be? John's tenure may have been at the other end of our pyramid spectrum but it, arguably, delivered the most important 'return' in bringing our great Club back into the Football League after five years stuck in the Conference and having fought off the demons that haunted us since our darkest hours.

All four have endured very different paths but all four have performed miracles in very different ways. But the poignancy of having all four men at our home, at the same time tonight, is not lost on so many of us.

On behalf of the board and all Luton Town supporters, it is my honour to thank them all for what they have achieved for our club over the past five decades, and I'm sure David and John will join us all in supporting Nathan's continuation to a successful conclusion.

And furthermore, how poignant would be it for us to overcome Huddersfield and face Nottingham Forest? Pleaty's first club as a player, the one our impressive young coach Chris Cohen is associated with most, not to mention Mick and Harty's connections, all of which could be celebrated in a third Wembley final between our two sides.

There is so much work to be done before that becomes a possibility and I know you won't need any encouragement from me to make sure you all play your part tonight. Let's have the old girl shaking at the knees again. Kenilworth nights don't get bigger than this!

Come on you Rip Roaring Hatters!



ROB STRINGER
DIRECTOR

It is a privilege to write these notes for our first ever Championship play off game. I am typing this on a plane to New York knowing I will be coming back again on Thursday night for this match! What's a few thousand miles when you love our club?

Also the United States is a lot closer than Sydney, where fellow director Stephen Browne returned from on the day before the Reading game. He looked very dapper in his three piece suit considering he must have wondered what day it was!

Anyway all us reading these notes share the fanaticism for LTFC I am sure, and have done mad travel things to follow our team!

The game against Reading was of course as memorable as many great moments in our history.

After the minor hiccup of catching Fulham on the wrong day, we all dusted ourselves off and shared a truly emotional lunchtime. There was an incredible atmosphere in the stadium and from the kick-off it was clear that the team was totally focused and playing the type of football we are so used to in this groundbreaking season. Particularly after Harry's wonderful instinct and ingenuity gave us the lead, we were all united that this was going to be ok!

All of the directors are lifelong fans so we share your stress and angst sometimes, but the players calmed us down with their attitude and commitment.

As the minutes wound down, the energy was so positive and I think it is a true testament to the sensibility of all of you that there was no pitch invasion so we could enjoy the players and coaches lap of honour with their families.

If Amari'i Bell's baby son wants a contract now, I think we should jump at the chance as he juggled a beach ball so effortlessly in front of the Kenilworth Road end, and it was good to see Henri Lansbury inspecting the turf so closely as rumors abound of his lawn prowess.

The amazing spirit of our club continued long past full time. A true reflection of how together the club is highlighted by just how crowded Nathan's office was with staff from all areas of the club. Everyone is treated equally and can share in our success, which our manager so succinctly puts into practice. After the match Paul Ince, the Reading manager, shared very generous sentiments about the nature of our club.

It goes without saying that the achievements this season are phenomenal. Heartfelt congratulations to NJ and his coaching staff, the players of course, and to Gary and everyone behind the scenes who work tirelessly to match the endeavours on the field.

Well, now we are in the play-offs we are here to go further, so let's all make the Kenny under the lights as intimidating and buzzing as we know it can be!

#COYH!

BOARDROOM

LUTON TOWN - V - HUDDERSFIELD TOWN
13/05/2022 | KENILWORTH ROAD



THE SKIPPER

Good evening, everyone. For the final time this season, welcome back to Kenilworth Road for our Championship play-off semi-final first leg against Huddersfield Town.

I spoke earlier this week at the Supporters' Trust end of season presentation evening, and I want to reiterate today that we are not looking at these fixtures as bonus games, in fact we're not satisfied with sixth place.

Yes, it's a good achievement in itself, but because we're so close now, we want to give 100 per cent in the next two or three games to give ourselves the best chance of playing Premier League football next season.

Some of the boys at this football club, the likes of Cameron Jerome, Henri Lansbury and Robert Snodgrass, have experienced top-flight football. But the majority of us have worked our way up from the lower leagues.

When you break it down, we are potentially three games away from the Premier League and there is a massive reward at the end of it, not just for the club, but for us as individuals, too.

The manager spoke about it and said nobody has given us anything. We haven't been lucky, we've had to work tirelessly to get into this position, so it's important to continue to do our best and take advantage of the brilliant position we find ourselves in.

If I'm being realistic, at the age of 30, it could be my last chance to try and get to the Premier League. I certainly hope not, but in football you never know.

Every time I have been part of a successful team, it is because of the togetherness of the group. I was at Plymouth where we had a team of good characters, and then when I came to Luton, it was even better.

Everyone needs to be pulling in the right direction and that is exactly what we've got here, epitomised

best after the match against Reading when we were enjoying ourselves with family members on the pitch, whilst Tom Lockyer is out working on his fitness because there is a good chance he will be needed during the next two matches.

It is not only a team effort, but to try and achieve our dream we will rely on you to make yourselves heard and be the 12th man as you always are.

I have spoken about the atmosphere at Kenilworth Road on a number of occasions, but I genuinely believe that Saturday against Reading was the best I've heard at the Kenny. I have been here for four seasons now and there have been nights and Saturday afternoons that have been memorable.

I speak a lot about the Portsmouth game when we were fighting for the title in League One. When we got promoted on the last day of the season against Oxford and the atmosphere was electric then too.

But I really do feel that against Reading it was a new level of constant noise for 90 minutes. We have to applaud you all for playing your part in the goal. I could see a couple of Reading players near me tell the goalkeeper that Harry was behind him but because the fans were so loud, he couldn't hear a thing. Therefore I think it's only fair that the fans get an assist for that one!

You have been tremendous all season whether it has been home or away. Even in games where it hasn't gone right for us on the day, you have still been there supporting us to the very end which doesn't go unnoticed by any of the players, so thank you for all your support.

Finally, I would like to thank every member of the football club for their tireless efforts throughout the season. You have been on the rollercoaster with us, from the catering staff providing us meals every day, to the ground staff making sure the training pitches and Kenilworth Road are always in top condition.

All that's left to say now is enjoy the game, make yourselves heard again...and come on you Hatters!

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LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS' TRUST

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Good evening and welcome to what is a huge occasion for us all.

We all know the incredible journey this club has been on, but to kick off tonight on the verge of a place in the Premier League after only returning to the Football League eight years ago truly is a remarkable story. Hopefully the final chapter can be written at Wembley two weeks on Sunday.

Whatever happens over these next two matches, and if everything goes to plan, a third, this has been a brilliant season, one of the best I can remember since the glory days of the 80s.

To be written off by the outside world and overcome the adversities of a crippling injury list, along with Covid taking its toll, the way we have, speaks volumes of the great people we have representing the club right now.

With that in mind, it was our honour to host the Player of the Season Presentation Evening at Venue 360 last Sunday, to give this great squad the celebration the season deserves.

I would like to once again congratulate all of the winners, details of whom you can find elsewhere in this programme, for the fantastic campaign they have had.

I'd also like to extend that goodwill to Mark Crowther, the amazing supporter who I had the pleasure of awarding the Kevin Catlin Memorial Trophy to as a fitting reward for the incredible personal journey he has been on this season. I wish you luck for the trip to Huddersfield, Mark.



The Presentation Evening was the highlight of another wonderful year for the Trust, most of which is detailed below this message. I would like to once again thank my whole team of board members for their brilliant work this season, in particular those who were involved in a fantastic night enjoyed by all last Sunday.

Finally, from me, it probably doesn't need me to tell you but please give everything you've got in getting behind the boys tonight. They are going to give it their absolute all on the pitch and if we can match them off it then it might be the difference in getting them over the line.

Enjoy tonight and Monday and regardless of the outcome have a great summer.

Be loud. Be proud. Be Luton Town.

Tony

LTST - Best of 2021 /22

Fan-led Review Presentation

The Trust was one of just three Championship clubs invited to give a presentation to the fan-led review which was chaired by Tracey Crouch MP. The recommendations of this review were recently given Government backing, and as a group which contributed to the review, we will continue to follow the progress of its implementation and ensure that football undergoes the changes that are needed.

New Website

Prior to the start of this season we launched our new website. We have seen a much increased



traffic throughout the campaign with the feedback from the new design being overwhelmingly positive. We will continue to update www.lutontownsupporterstrust.com with all the latest news regarding LTST so if you haven't bookmarked it yet make sure you do!

International Hatters

One of our aims as a Trust is to establish and build a community of Hatters overseas, not just those within the UK. We have reached out to supporters' groups in places such as Canada, Czech Republic, Norway, Rotterdam and Japan. To see more on groups from those places hit up the International Hatters section on our website.

Podcast

This season has been the fifth of the Luton Town Supporters' Trust podcast. Kev, James and Tony have navigated the wonderful journey of the season in audio form throughout the campaign. Kev has also had a number of special guests along the way to give us the insights from inside the camp.

The season began with an exclusive interview with manager Nathan Jones before Town stars Allan Campbell, Amari'i Bell, Gabe Osho, Jordan Clark, James Shea and Peter Kioso all joined Kev for chats each month. The latest view from the camp came from Chris Cohen ahead of the Easter clash with Nottingham Forest.

The podcast hit a major milestone in March when the 50,000th download was recorded. The boys got together behind the scenes at the Presentation Evening on Sunday for a play-off preview episode. That edition and all of those recorded this season can be found on our website.

Supporting Beds Prostate Cancer Support Group

Our charity for this season has been the Beds Prostate Cancer Support Group in light of the diagnosis of the disease which Mick Harford revealed he had received last year. As well as raising more than £3,600 over the course of the season, it was important to us to raise awareness of a wonderful group of people who are doing fantastic work. The recent PSA testing event at Kenilworth Road was a measurement of the impact they are having.

Zoom Events

We have staged a number of zoom events throughout the season to keep our supporters entertained. Our guests have included former Town players Jake Howells, Marvin Johnson, Enoch Showunmi and Tony Thorpe while Town physio Simon Parsell was a wonderful guest at our AGM in November.

Membership

Our membership has continued to grow throughout the season and we are determined not to stop at the levels we are at. We are working hard to grow the benefits of being a member all the time and would be honoured if you haven't yet joined the Trust if you would consider doing so. Remember, the stronger our membership, the stronger our collective voice is.

For full details of how to join for next season please head to the 'become a member' section on our website.





PRESENTATION EVENING



Kal Naismith was awarded Player of the Season and fellow Scotsman Allan Campbell picked up four trophies at the Luton Town Supporters' Trust presentation evening on Sunday night.

Supporters returned to Venue 360 for the first time in two years for the annual presentation which saw versatile defender Naismith succeed Simon Sluga as this year's main award winner.

His team-mates further acknowledged his efforts by awarding him the Players' Player of the Season award too after contributing two goals and seven assists, whilst his injury-time winner against AFC Bournemouth in January also earned him the newly-named 'Mick Harford Trophy' for Goal of the Season.

Speaking on stage after collecting his Player's Player of the Season award, Naismith said: "It means a lot. The first award (Goal of the Season) was in Mick's name which was great but to get the recognition from players is special. Every single

one is a great human being and there is a lot of talent, so this is a special award for me."

The most successful winner on the night was midfielder Allan Campbell who picked up four awards, including new trophy, Signing of the Season.

Campbell overcame a tough start to life in Luton colours after he suffered an injury in the away match against Blackburn in September, but from December onwards he was a mainstay in the team – featuring in 24 successive league matches before injury forced him to miss the away match against Fulham.

The tenacious Scotsman has chipped in with four goals and two assists, including two long-range strikes in victories against AFC Bournemouth and West Brom.

Top scorer Elijah Adebayo earned acknowledgment and was voted Junior Supporters' Player of the Season after scoring 16 goals in his first full Championship campaign, whilst Ed McJanet was recognised for his efforts for the Development squad and Republic of Ireland – winning Young LTFC Player of the Season.

An emotional Mark Crowther was the recipient of the Kevin Catlin Memorial Trophy for outstanding contribution, and host Simon Pitts was presented with the Golden Hatter award as the Supporters' Trust celebrated all Luton Town on and off the pitch this season.



HOME OF THE EFL CHAMPIONSHIP





THE OPPOSITION

WORDS: RYAN PAYNE

Huddersfield Town secured third place in the Sky Bet Championship with their final day win over Bristol City, leapfrogging Nottingham Forest who drew 1-1 away to Hull City.

It's been a fantastic season for Carlos Corberan and co at the John Smith's Stadium, who will hope for a return to the Premier League after relegation from the top tier at the end of the 2018/19 season. Only losing two league games since December, Huddersfield have fully deserved their place in the play-offs.

The two sides met at the Kenny back in October, with nothing to separate them, with the game ending goalless. The reverse fixture, played in April, saw Huddersfield finish as 2-0 winners. Goals from Jon Russell and Naby Sarr meant it was all three points for the Terriers that night, although the Hatters played well and the outcome might have been different had Elijah Adebayo's second-half penalty been converted.

We welcome the travelling Huddersfield Town fans to Kenilworth Road for the Championship play-off semi-final first leg, and wish them a safe journey back to Yorkshire ahead of Monday night's return.

That game is a 7.45pm kick-off, once again live on Sky Sports, at the John Smith's Stadium.

SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE

#	Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Fulham	46	27	9	10	106	43	63	90
2	Bournemouth	46	25	13	8	74	39	35	88
3	Huddersfield Town	46	23	13	10	64	47	17	82
4	Nottingham Forest	46	23	11	12	73	40	33	80
5	Sheffield United	46	21	12	13	63	45	18	75
6	Luton Town	46	21	12	13	63	55	8	75
7	Middlesbrough	46	20	10	16	59	50	9	70
8	Blackburn Rovers	46	19	12	15	59	50	9	69
9	Millwall	46	18	15	13	53	45	8	69
10	West Bromwich Albion	46	18	13	15	52	45	7	67
11	Queens Park Rangers	46	19	9	18	60	59	1	66
12	Coventry City	46	17	13	16	60	59	1	64
13	Preston North End	46	16	16	14	52	56	-4	64
14	Stoke City	46	17	11	18	57	52	5	62
15	Swansea City	46	16	13	17	58	68	-10	61
16	Blackpool	46	16	12	18	54	58	-4	60
17	Bristol City	46	15	10	21	62	77	-15	55
18	Cardiff City	46	15	8	23	50	68	-18	53
19	Hull City	46	14	9	23	41	54	-13	51
20	Birmingham City	46	11	14	21	50	75	-25	47
21	Reading *	46	13	8	25	54	87	-33	41
22	Peterborough United	46	9	10	27	43	87	-44	37
23	Derby County **	46	14	13	19	45	53	-8	34
24	Barnsley	46	6	12	28	33	73	-40	30

*Reading deducted 6 points

**Derby County deducted 21 points



THE GOALKEEPER: LEE NICHOLLS

A product of the Wigan academy, Nicholls featured in nine league games for the Latics and had a number of loan spells, at the likes of Accrington Stanley, Northampton, and Bristol Rovers.

Nicholls left Wigan in the summer of 2016, and later joined MK Dons. He spent five years at Stadium MK and made over 130 league appearances for the club.

He joined Huddersfield last summer and has been the club's first-choice this season.



THE DEFENDER: TOM LEES

Joining Leeds as an eight-year-old, Lees progressed through the academy at Elland Road and made over 120 league appearances for the club.

In July 2014, the 31-year-old signed for Sheffield Wednesday. He spent seven years at Hillsborough, and featured in 249 league games for the Owls.

He left in the summer of 2021, and moved across Yorkshire to join Huddersfield, where has made 44 appearances this term.



THE MANAGER: CARLOS CORBERAN

After a short career as a player, Corberan moved into coaching at Villarreal's C and B Teams, working as a fitness coach, later moving into the first-team coaching team.

He coached at three Saudi Arabian clubs before going into management in Cyprus.

In 2017 he moved to England to coach Leeds U23s, eventually stepping up to be assistant under Marcelo Bielsa. In July 2020, Corberan left Elland Road to take over at Huddersfield.



**ON THE RADAR:
HUDDERSFIELD TOWN**

I N I T I A T E S T E

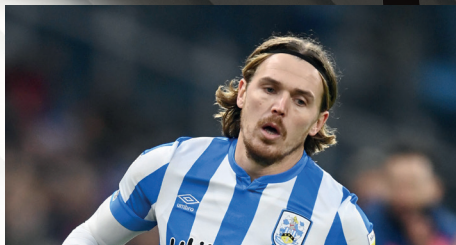


THE MIDFIELDER: LEWIS O'BRIEN

O'Brien began his career with Huddersfield, and was named Academy Player of the Year in the 2017/18 season.

Prior to making his debut for the Terriers, the midfielder spent the 2018/19 season on loan at Bradford. He featured for the Bantams in League Two.

Since his return to Huddersfield, the 23-year-old has been a key part of the Terriers' midfield, going on to rack up 128 appearances, in which he has scored eight times.



THE ATTACKER: DANNY WARD

In his youth, Ward spent time at both Leeds and Bolton, and made his senior debut with the latter against Sunderland in August 2009.

After loans to Swindon and Coventry, the striker joined Huddersfield permanently after an initial loan in 2011. He later joined Rotherham in 2015, before a spell with Cardiff.

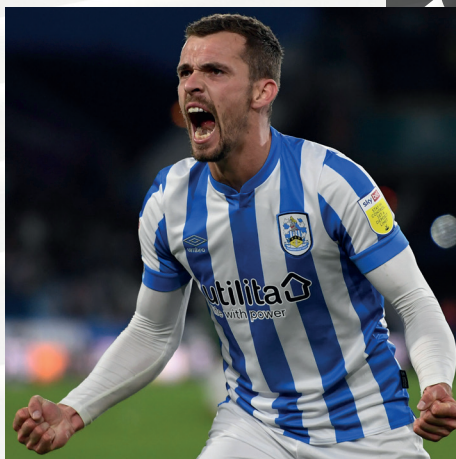
In August 2020, the 31-year-old made his return to Huddersfield. After a barren 2020-21 campaign in which he scored just once, Ward has 14 league goals to his name this term.

WATCH OUT FOR... HARRY TOFFOLO

After netting against Bristol City last week, Toffolo has scored five times in the last seven fixtures, all from wing-back.

He began his career at Norwich, and had loan spells at the likes of Swindon, Scunthorpe, and Doncaster, before a brief permanent spell at Millwall.

The 26-year-old then spent 18-months with Lincoln City, before making the move to Huddersfield in January 2020.



ON THE RADAR: HUDDERSFIELD TOWN





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LUTON TOWN - V - HUDDERSFIELD TOWN
13/05/2022 | KENILWORTH ROAD



SIMON OXLEY



My first play-off experience – and here's where I alienate everyone from Huddersfield – was watching my boyhood club Leeds United. It was back in 1987 in the old second division, now the Championship.

It was a new thing, but differed from the current format in that the teams in 3rd, 4th and 5th were joined by a team from the division above. In my case that meant Leeds up against top flight Charlton in the final, over two legs, and then it needed a replay. Charlton won – that makes you feel better doesn't it Huddersfield fans – and stayed in the old first division.

Charlton's manager – and here's the Luton link – was a certain Lennie Lawrence, who was managing the Hatters when I next encountered play-offs whilst working here in 1997. We looked a good bet for automatic promotion with Tony Thorpe's 30 goals but ended up third, losing to Crewe in the semis.

Since then it's been mainly Conference play-offs with the Hatters when we endured the end of season heartache several times, and then Blackpool in League Two, which seems a long time ago in 2017. Despite the lack of success here, I don't mind the format. Let's be honest it kept us going for several Conference seasons, although the format now in that particular division is somewhat bizarre.

At 3CR we have had mixed results down the years. Stevenage lost a Conference final to Carlisle at Stoke, but won a League Two final at Old Trafford against Paul Buckle's Torquay. I commentated on Watford successes at Wembley and Cardiff, but MK have yet to reach a final.

I went to their latest attempt on Sunday in what was a classic play-off scenario. The side who finished third, having been in the running for automatic promotion, came unstuck away to the sixth-placed team and couldn't make up the deficit at home. With all due respect to tonight's opponents they haven't perhaps been in contention to go straight up as much as Nottingham Forest, but those who come third can slip up. Tonight's game can be decisive.

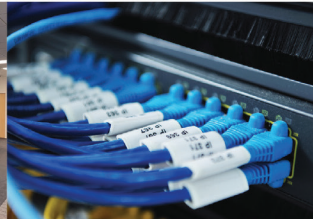
So Wycombe will now face Sunderland in the League One final, and already Sheffield Wednesday, Ipswich, Charlton, Portsmouth and Derby will be in League One next season. That further underlines the achievement by Nathan Jones and his team in getting this far in the division above. But I'm not in the "just happy to be here" camp. Now you're in, you have to do everything to win. Who knows when this chance might come again. Hopefully soon, but don't forget the increasing parachute payments from the top flight. It's so tough to compete against relegated or recently relegated sides from the Premier League.

That said, Blackpool, who broke hearts here in 2017, won the Championship play-offs from sixth place in 2010, and wearing orange. Ok I'm stretching a point, but why can't it happen again. Sometimes it's just meant to be.



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1996/97: CREWE

THE HATTERS IN THE PLAY-OFFS

BY ROGER WASH

In the past a great many clubs knew by Christmas each year that they were not likely to win promotion, and as the season was effectively over for them, attendances normally dropped away alarmingly.

In order to keep interest going until the bitter end, play-offs were introduced in 1987, but it was to be ten years before the Town tasted what is now regarded as the annual end of season nail-biter.

We had been relegated to Division Two (now League One) at the end of the 1995/96 campaign, and in spite of a valiant effort to win immediate promotion, were destined to finish in third spot behind Bury and Stockport.

Sixth place Crewe had lost 17 games that season including a 0-6 mauling at Kenilworth Road, and the play-off semi-final first leg against the Railwaymen was looked on as a formality by the Luton supporters who travelled to Gresty Road!

All seemed to be going to plan when, after only three minutes, Crewe goalkeeper Jason Kearton parried a low Andrew Fotiadis cross into the path

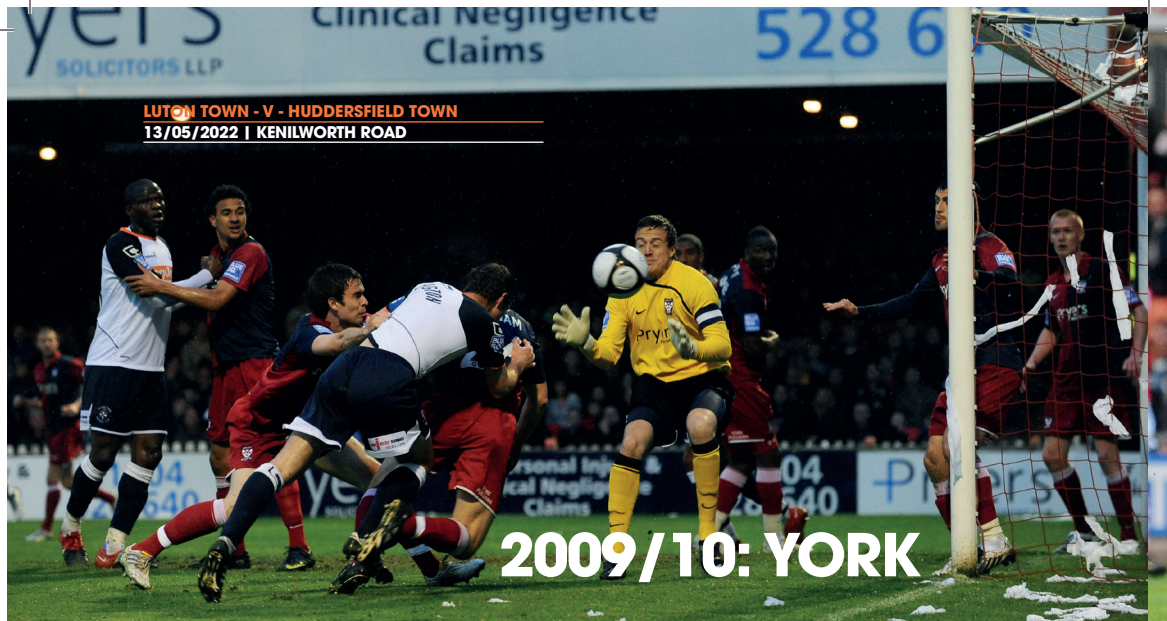
of David Oldfield who made no mistake. From then on it all started to go wrong....

Firstly, the influential Garry Waddock was forced to go off after suffering a gashed leg, and then Mark Rivers, whose father played for the Town in the 1960s, forced an equaliser following a mistake by Luton full-back Julian James.

It was to get worse for James who was dismissed for a second yellow card soon after, and from then on it became one-way traffic as Crewe laid siege on the Luton defence. Fortunately only one further goal was scored with Colin Little presented with an open target, but how big striker Dele Adebola failed to make it 3-1 with a shot that hit a post is anyone's guess. He probably felt obliged after standing on my toes in the Gresty Road club shop beforehand!

It was therefore back to Kenilworth Road for the second leg and a relieved Hatters side re-grouped, confident that they would not play as badly again.

Again, it all started well with Oldfield putting the Town 2-0 up after half an hour, only for Little to pull a goal back a couple of minutes later. After Shaun Smith levelled the score on the night after



61 minutes, there was no way back for the Town who were well held by their increasingly classy opponents.

It was to be another 13 years before the Town tasted the play-offs again, and by this time we were experiencing our first season out of the Football League since 1920. Our initial season in the Conference of 2009/10 saw us finish in second spot behind Stevenage and we were down to play York at Bootham Crescent in the semi-final first leg.

On the night the Town, who had gone 14 games unbeaten, did everything but score but were killed off by a sucker punch in the final minute. A long punt out of the York defence skidded off the top of Shane Blackett's head into the path of Richard Brodie, who up until that point had been starved of the ball all evening.

Brodie took the chance well to set up an intriguing second leg in front of a near capacity crowd at Kenilworth Road.

York had done their homework and limited the Town to only a handful of chances before getting a lucky break when a clearance from George Pilkington cannoned off Chris Carruthers into the net. At 0-2 down on aggregate there was no way back for the Town, and it was scant satisfaction that York lost to Oxford in the final.

In the following season the Hatters finished in

third spot and were due to take on fourth placed Wrexham in the play-off semi-final, with the first leg at the Racecourse Ground.

In an amazing first 45 minutes the Town stunned the crowd of 7,211 by taking a 3-0 lead with a scintillating display of attacking football. Alex Lawless with a 25 yard pile-driver, Claude Gnaka with an equally impressive strike, and a first ever goal for Ed Asafu-Adjaye gave the Hatters a commanding lead which they held on to with ease.

Although the Town were leading 3-0 on aggregate, the nerves certainly started jangling in the crowd of 9,078 in the second leg when Andy Mangan pulled a goal back in the eighth minute, as Wrexham attacked with a will during the opening period.

Worse was to come soon after when Dan Gleeson was penalised for handball but Mark Tyler, in the Luton goal, saved Gareth Taylor's spot kick and from then on the Town fought their way back and more or less killed the game with Zdenek Kroca's header from Asafu-Adjaye's 29th minute free-kick.

Jason Walker netted the Town's second in the closing minutes to confirm a 5-1 aggregate win and set up a play-off final against AFC Wimbledon at Eastlands, Manchester.

Easy trip up, lovely stadium, pleasant atmosphere but what a tedious game. With the two sides cancelling each other out, the game hinged on



2010/11: WREXHAM

two incidents as the contest was approaching 90 minutes.

Firstly, Jason Walker was blatantly upended by Dons goalkeeper Seb Brown in the area, only for the referee to wave play-on with Matthew Barnes-Homer being crowded out as he tried to get his shot away. Secondly, Walker climbed highest to meet a Jake Howells cross, only to see his header hit the base of the post and roll along the line into the grateful arms of Brown.

Extra-time could not separate the sides leading to the dreaded penalty shoot-out, which we lost 4-3 to send the Dons back to the Football League and 12,000 Hatters fans to slink off home to lick their wounds.

Up until this point, with our previous three failed attempts, we knew that the play-offs were to be our likely destination long before the season was over. Season 2012/13 was different inasmuch that at Easter, following an awful 3-1 defeat at Braintree, the play-offs were far from our minds.

New manager Paul Buckle, watching the Braintree debacle, immediately switched Stuart Fleetwood to his rightful position up front and Robbie Willmott back out to the wing, and with it came an upsurge in fortune as the battling Hatters attempted to make up lost ground.

Three home wins in a row, including a vital three points against promotion aspirants Kidderminster, Harriers, wrapped around a pair of away draws still

left the Town needing to win a point at the home of runaway champions Fleetwood Town on the final day.

The Town players applauded the Fleetwood team on to the pitch with a guard of honour, and then proceeded to outplay their illustrious opponents with an own goal and a strike from new scoring sensation from Hinckley, Andre Gray, sealing a brilliant victory and with it a play-off place at the death.

Their opponents were to be Wrexham again, but this time in different circumstances. The Red Dragons were a little miffed at not winning the title as in any normal season their 98 points, 17 ahead of the Town, would have made them champions, but instead they were needing to take part in the play-off lottery which we were more than happy to participate in given the despair following the Braintree defeat only a few weeks before.

The first leg this time was to be at Kenilworth Road, and on one of those famous nights under the lights, an expectant crowd of 9,012 gathered to see a battle of styles with Wrexham favouring the direct route against the Town's passing football.

It was to be the Town's cultured football that was to win the day though. In a breathless first half, Keith Keane's delightful pass found Fleetwood who managed to keep the ball in play then beat his man before haring to the by-line and crossing to Gray, who made no mistake.

LUTON TOWN - V - HUDDERSFIELD TOWN
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2012/13: WREXHAM

Fleetwood then took centre stage a few minutes later when he accepted a clever backheel from Gray and ran through a statuesque Wrexham defence before firing a clever shot past Joslain Mayebi in the Red Dragons goal.

As to be expected, Wrexham came out in the second half with all guns blazing, pumping high balls in to the Luton defence, which held firm and in truth sporadic Luton breakaways could have resulted in a more comfortable result.

'2-0 is a dangerous scoreline' is the old cliché which was repeated many times by the 1,219 Luton Supporters who made their way to Wrexham for the second leg but any nerves were soon settled when, after weathering an early onslaught, the Town took the overall score to 3-0 in the 23rd minute.

Alex Lawless was brought down in the box by Wrexham centre-half Mark Creighton, with skipper George Pilkington coolly netting from the spot, and with it came the hope that the contest was as good as over.

Wrexham had other ideas, however, and a double substitution on 56 minutes with player-manager Andy Morrell and the mobile Adam Cieslewicz replacing the ineffective Danny Wright and Mathias Pogba, the brother of Manchester United star Paul, with man-mountain Creighton being

pushed up front, certainly threatened a change in fortune.

The pressure on the Town defence finally told when Cieslewicz's misplaced header looped over Mark Tyler in the Luton goal on 63 minutes, with Morrell netting a second with 13 minutes left to play.

The game was now set up for a grandstand finish, but the Luton defenders held out heroically and even managed to cope with eight minutes of added time to book a place at Wembley.

We were due to meet our old nemesis York City in the final and surely we owed them something after they had completed the 'double' over us in league games that season, as well as knocking us out of the FA Trophy at the semi-final stage?

On the big day a crowd of 39,265, including 30,000 from Luton, gathered under the arch to see the game get off to a blistering start with Gray sidefooting Willmott's clever pass home after only 75 seconds.

After this shock start York gradually got back into the game and levelled on 26 minutes when Ashley Chambers rammed the ball into the net after hesitation in the Luton defence following a free-kick.



Straight after the interval, York scored what was to turn out to be the winner in controversial fashion when a long throw was flicked on at the near post to the waiting Matty Blair, more than a yard offside, who tapped the ball past Tyler.

Although the Town huffed and puffed after this, the Minstermen held out fairly comfortably to seal a return to the Football League, leaving the Town to wait a further two years before joining them.

Our final foray into the play-offs came at the end of 2016-17 in League Two, Nathan Jones' first full season in charge at Kenilworth Road.

Showing a big improvement on the previous campaign, the Town had flirted with automatic promotion but finally had to settle for fourth spot behind Portsmouth, Plymouth and Doncaster.

Opponents in the semi-final were to be Blackpool who we had beaten twice that season, with the first leg at Bloomfield Road. After former Hatter Mark Cullen gave the Tangerines the lead on 19 minutes, two quickfire goals gave the Town the ascendancy.

Dan Potts was on target with his first goal for the club on 26 minutes, before Isaac Vassell banged in the second two minutes later.

The lead was lost moments after the interval when Cullen fired in from 25 yards before Town's Scott Cuthbert was penalised for holding Blackpool's Tom Aldred in the area leading to Cullen completing his hat-trick from the spot.

The second leg saw the fired up Kenilworth Road crowd silenced when Nathan Delfouneso sidefooted home after 20 minutes. The Town roared back though and an own goal from Kelvin Mellor and a header from Cuthbert saw the Town ahead on the night and level on aggregate.

In the second period top scorer Danny Hylton won a penalty after being fouled in the box which he converted with a cheeky shot off the crossbar, and all looked set fair for a trip to Wembley.

Disaster struck with 15 minutes remaining however when loanee goalkeeper Stuart Moore came for a ball which he had no chance of reaching, leaving Armand Gnanouillet to nod home before, in the final seconds, an attempted clearance from Jordan Cook struck Moore and rolled slowly over the line, putting the Seasiders through on aggregate 6-5.

So, five play-offs all ending in heartbreak. Is it now our time?!?

LUTON TOWN - V - HUDDERSFIELD TOWN
13/05/2022 | KENILWORTH ROAD

THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

Harry Cornick celebrates his 13th - and cheekiest - goal of the season after his game of hide and seek with Reading goalkeeper Orjan Nyland in first-half injury-time of the 1-0 win that guaranteed the Hatters' place in the Sky Bet Championship play-offs.





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LUTON TOWN - V - HUDDERSFIELD TOWN
13/05/2022 | KENILWORTH ROAD

TRICK OR TREATMENT

SIMON PARSELL

Nothing feels better than doing what people say you cannot do. Not many people would have said that Luton Town would be in the Championship play-offs, but here we are and credit to the lads who have been willing to do whatever it has needed to get here.

The road has been rocky in patches with injuries causing us disruption, but if you play an aggressive style, then they are expected and, as Robert Snodgrass reminds us, you have to adapt.

So, my first thank you goes to the lads. Firstly, for their support and secondly for the numerous wonderful quotes they have provided during the year. I quote, "I put my top in the dryer but it dried quicker laying on the underfloor heating"... "Anti-viral nasal spray, what does it do?" On the arrival of his baby, Bez stated he was "a real stud like Frankel!"..."1500m. How far is that in kilometres?" And finally, in the pre-season quiz, the question was asked, how long is the great wall of China? My team member responded: "It's a big wall."

A big thank you to Chris Phillips, Darren Cook and Ollie Sharples (who, by the way, is now a dad.

Welcome Lily. She will have no problem sleeping listening to Ollie read her research papers) for their work during the season and we look forward to an off-season Moretti club meeting. I should also thank Mrs P, Eleanor, Kerry for putting up with us and football. Thanks to Jared, James, Luke, Elliot for their Return to Play work this year.

For their continued supported through recent tough times Bobbers Travel. Their donations to buy equipment and willingness to always help is amazing. No doubt I will be raiding that bank account again soon. Thanks guys.

Obviously, I cannot forget Kempy, the magician. When all else fails, call for Kempy. Can he fix it? Yes he can! To the canteen staff at The Brache, it wasn't till I went out recently I realised that not all food comes black. Only joking boys.

They say being a true fan isn't being there at the beginning. It's being there until the end. The support home and away has been fantastic and for that I thank you. Hopefully there is more to come.

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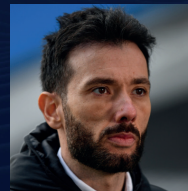
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WE'RE WITH YOU



Like many long term supporters of Luton Town, I guess some memories of possible opponents in the play-offs have come to mind.

Certainly they would have included those cup final defeats by Nottingham Forest in 1959 and 1989. And I have to admit that I am old enough to have been at Wembley for those sad outcomes both times. So, I was hoping that we would - for better or worse - face them in a two legged semi-final rather than inviting fate to pronounce on a one-off 'third time lucky'. Also we have a better record against them this season than many other clubs.

But that late equaliser at Hull intervened, and tonight pits us against the Terriers instead. Not that all memories of our games against them are all bad.

Typical of this was our visit up north in September 2002. By this time my late best friend in broadcasting, Ian Pearce and I had established a routine of travelling together to games via the venue's local Wetherspoons, or similar, for a meal and a pint.

We turned up in good time as usual in trainers and jeans, which offended their previously undisclosed dress code. The Press Box there shares an arena entrance with the Director's Box. And their occupants were presumably in danger of an attack of the vapours at the sight of those offending

uncouth items of clothing, because we initially were denied entrance because of this.

When we pointed out that my paper the 'Luton on Sunday' would have a large white space where my report was due to go, and that BBC 3CR's Luton Town broadcast frequencies would be silent, we were eventually allowed in. But under escort to and from our seats, and told not to move under threat of death or worse. Suffice to say Steve Howard scored the only goal late in the game. It made our day.

The next time we were privileged to visit Huddersfield Town, Pearcey had the idea of attending the game in formal dress, and we duly turned up in dinner suits and bow ties.

It must be admitted that the same jobsworths on the gate and the rest of the Yorkshire folks took the joke in good part, and we were treated with great respect, especially by the Directors and to the delight of the rest of the Press Box.

There are promises of great occasions both tonight and on Monday, and may the best team win.

Wembley here we come? Whatever, enjoy the game.

COYH.



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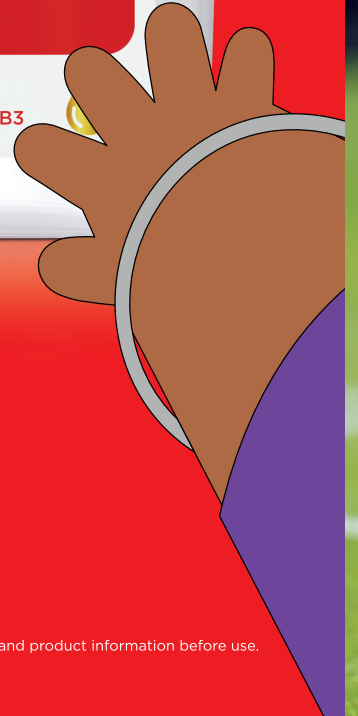
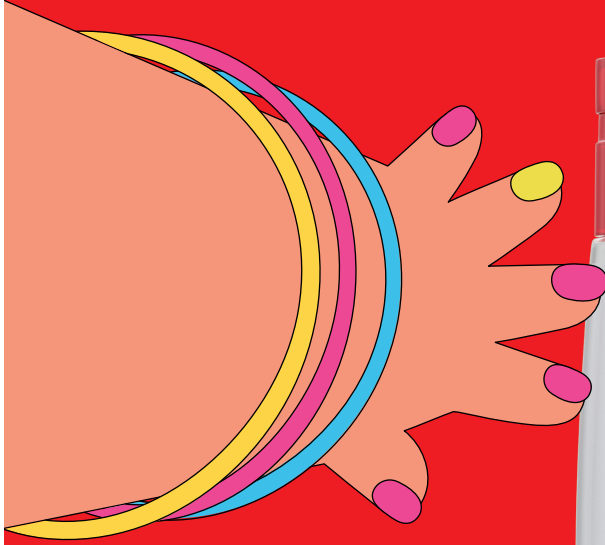
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1 LUTON TOWN 0 READING

Kenilworth Road – Sat 7th April 2022 -
Sky Bet Championship

Town: Ingram; Bree, Burke, Bradley (C), Naismith,
Bell; Lansbury, Campbell (Snodgrass 78'), Clark;
Cornick (Muskwe 67'), Jerome (Hylton 90').

Reading: Nyland; Thomas, Morrison (C), Holmes
(Abrefa 84'), Baba; Laurent, McIntyre; Meite
(Scott 74'), Ejaria, Hoilett (Dele-Bashiru 78');
Joao.

Scorers:
LT - Cornick (45+1')

**"If someone said at the
start of the season you
could have 75 points
– which was in our
presentation – we would
have taken 75 points all
day long."**

NATHAN JONES



HARRY CORNICK

Words: Dan Briard

Harry Cornick secured a Championship play-off place for the Hatters after quick-thinking on the stroke of half-time as he stole the ball off Reading goalkeeper Orjan Nyland and rolled the ball into an empty net!

The attacker, unbeknown to the keeper, lurked behind waiting to pounce and he did just that – which proved to be the winner on a memorable day at Kenilworth Road.

Speaking about his cheeky tactic post-match, the 27-year-old said: "I thought I'd stay behind him and see what happens. I've seen a few people do that in previous games and I thought I'd give it a go. To be fair their fans were screaming 'man on, man on' behind you, and I thought 'he's got to hear' but he rolled it out and it was a gift for me. I'm happy with it!"

On the game itself, Cornick credited the impact of the Luton supporters who made themselves heard right throughout the match.

"We started the game so well, we had a few chances," he said. "We knew we were going to start the game well, the fans were tremendous again as always, and they got us going. We will need them Friday in the play-off game, they got us going and we started really brightly."

"We've had a few injuries, people with knocks playing through them. Sonny Bradley today was tremendous, playing through a knock and he's our captain, he leads us, and we know when he's on the pitch, he's going to put a performance in. We've had a few people out injured but they're starting to come back now, so hopefully we can have a few back for Friday, which would be lovely."

Looking ahead to tonight's meeting against Huddersfield Town in the first leg of the play-off semi-final, the attacker said: "We needed to win today so we could go into the game on Friday full of confidence knowing you've got a great chance to win it. Friday is huge for us, we need to take a result over to Huddersfield."

"We know they are a good team, we've played them before, it's going to be a tough game, but if the fans here are going crazy like they were today, it'll be a good atmosphere and a good game."



FIXTURES 2021-22

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	ATT	AWAY	POS	PENALTY (F)	PENALTY (A)	OWN GOALS	SENT OFF	OPP. SENT OFF	SHEA	BREE	POTTS	NASMITH	BRADLEY	REA	CORNICK	BERRY	HYLTON	LEE	ADBAYO	SLUGA	SNODGRASS	MENDES GOMES	
AUGUST																											
Sat 7	3.00pm	H	Peterborough Utd	W 3-0	10,019	1,032	2	-	-	-	-	-	*	y				*	1a				1			b	
Tue 10	7.45pm	A	Stevenage (CCR1)	D 2-2*	3,052	1,291	-	-	-	-	-	-	*					y	a			c					
Sat 14	3.00pm	A	West Bromwich Albion	L 2-3	23,283	1,433	11	-	-	1	-	-	*							1			d			*	
Tue 17	7.45pm	A	Barnsley	W 1-0	12,999	748	3	-	-	-	-	-	*					c	a	y			*	y		*	
Sat 21	3.00pm	H	Birmingham City	L 0-5	10,014	1,006	11	-	-	-	-	-	*					a	y	c			*			*	
Sat 28	3.00pm	H	Sheffield United	D 0-0	9,774	1,036	12	-	-	-	-	-	*			y		a		c						*	
SEPTEMBER																											
Sat 11	3.00pm	A	Blackburn Rovers	D 2-2	11,241	810	12	-	-	-	-	-	*		b	y	b			c	2				y	c	
Wed 15	7.45pm	A	Bristol City	D 1-1	16,878	572	13	-	-	-	-	-	*	y				*	a	c	b	1		a		c	
Sat 18	3.00pm	H	Swansea City	D 3-3	9,721	831	14	1	-	-	-	-	*			y		c	b	1a			2	c		*	
Sat 25	3.00pm	A	AFC Bournemouth	L 1-2	9,737	1,125	16	-	-	1	-	-	*			*	*	c	b							b	
Wed 29	7.45pm	H	Coventry City	W 5-0	9,805	1,032	9	1	-	-	-	-	*					c	2a	1			2	b		a	
OCTOBER																											
Sat 2	3.00pm	H	Huddersfield Town	D 0-0	9,977	1,009	13	-	-	-	-	-	*					y	a	c						c	
Sat 16	3.00pm	A	Millwall	W 2-0	14,227	1,631	10	-	-	-	-	-	*	y						2a	*						
Tue 19	7.45pm	A	Derby County	D 2-2	20,258	1,057	9	-	-	-	-	-	*			y	a		c	*			1			*	
Sat 23	3.00pm	H	Hull City	W 1-0	9,999	793	5	-	-	-	-	-	*					a	b	c		a		1	b	*	
Sat 30	3.00pm	A	Preston North End	L 0-2	11,059	989	10	-	1	-	-	-	*					a	b	c		*					
NOVEMBER																											
Wed 2	7.45pm	H	Middlesbrough	W 3-1	9,790	987	6	-	-	-	-	-	*	y	ya			1	*	1b		b		1	c		
Sat 6	3.00pm	H	Stoke City	L 0-1	10,068	1,005	11	-	-	-	-	-	*					*	b	*							
Fri 19	7.45pm	A	QPR	L 0-2	15,062	2,452	11	-	-	-	-	-	*					y	*	a	*			y		*	
Tue 23	7.45pm	A	Nottingham Forest	D 0-0	25,715	1,418	11	-	-	-	1	-	*					y	*	a	c		*	c			
Sat 27	3.00pm	H	Cardiff City	L 1-2	9,987	1,032	14	-	-	-	-	-	*					yc	b		b						
DECEMBER																											
Sat 4	3.00pm	A	Blackpool	W 3-0	11,366	1,391	12	-	-	-	-	-	*					1				c		1	c	b	
Sat 11	3.00pm	H	Fulham	D 1-1	9,992	1,029	12	-	-	-	-	-	*								*		1	*		*	
JANUARY																											
Sun 9	12.30pm	H	Harrogate T (FAC3)	W 4-0	4,834	330	-	-	-	-	-	-	*		*	1		*		a	1	e		1	e	*	
Sat 15	12.30pm	H	AFC Bournemouth	W 3-2	9,649	1,032	13	-	-	1	-	-	*		*	1				*				*		*	
Wed 19	8.00pm	A	Reading	W 2-0	9,611	849	11	-	-	1	-	-	*							*				*		*	
Sat 22	3.00pm	A	Sheffield United	L 0-2	27,780	1,843	13	-	-	-	1	-	*							*			a	*		*	
Tue 25	7.45pm	H	Bristol City	W 2-1	9,202	586	10	-	-	-	-	-	*			*				ya			1	*		*	
Sat 29	3.00pm	H	Blackburn Rovers	D 0-0	9,987	1,032	10	-	-	-	-	-	*	y	*				b	y	c					*	
FEBRUARY																											
Tue 1	7.45pm	A	Swansea City	W 1-0	16,598	310	9	-	-	-	-	-	*		*				a	1	c	y	y			*	
Sat 5	5.30pm	A	Cambridge U (FAC4)	W 3-0	7,937	1,470	-	-	-	-	-	-	*		*				b		a					1	
Tue 8	7.45pm	H	Barnsley	W 2-1	9,101	306	7	1	-	-	-	-	*			*			b		c		c			*	
Sat 12	3.00pm	A	Birmingham City	L 0-3	17,292	1,782	10	-	-	-	-	-	*						c	*						a	
Sat 19	3.00pm	H	West Brom	W 2-0	10,029	1,031	8	-	-	-	-	-	*	c	*				*		b					*	
Wed 23	7.45pm	A	Stoke City	W 2-1	18,270	581	8	-	-	-	-	-	*			*			ya		1y		y			*	
Sat 26	3.00pm	H	Derby County	W 1-0	10,070	1,032	6	-	-	-	-	-	*						b		a	1	c		*	*	
MARCH																											
Wed 2	7.15pm	H	Chelsea (FAC5)	L 2-3	10,140	1,570	-	-	-	-	-	-	*		*				1	b	c	e				d	
Sat 5	3.00pm	A	Middlesbrough	L 1-2	23,817	711	8	-	1	-	-	-	*			b			c	1	*	y				*	
Tue 8	7.45pm	A	Coventry City	W 1-0	16,996	1,757	6	-	-	-	-	-	*						ya	b			1	y		*	
Sun 13	12.00pm	H	QPR	L 1-2	10,073	1,032	7	-	1	-	-	-	*			*			b	*					c	*	
Wed 16	7.45pm	H	Preston North End	W 4-0	9,408	614	5	-	-	1	-	-	*						b	2	c	b				c	
Sat 19	3.00pm	A	Hull City	W 3-1	16,555	948	3	-	-	-	-	-	*	1					1	c	a	*		1		*	
APRIL																											
Sat 2	3.00pm	H	Millwall	D 2-2	10,069	1,032	4	-	-	1	-	-	*			b	*			a	*		1		c	*	
Tue 5	7.45pm	A	Peterborough United	D 1-1	10,940	3,699	4	-	-	-	-	-	*		*		b		c		1	b	y		*	*	
Mon 11	7.45pm	A	Huddersfield Town	L 0-2	18,379	1,089	5	-	-	-	-	-	*			b	y		c	*	c				a	*	
Fri 15	12.30pm	H	Nottingham Forest	W 1-0	10,070	1,031	4	1	-	-	1	-	y		*	1	y	r		a	a		yc		b	*	
Mon 18	3.00pm	A	Cardiff City	W 1-0	19,381	1,203	4	-	-	-	-	-	b	a		y			a	1	*					*	
Sat 23	12.30pm	H	Blackpool	D 1-1	9,843	581	5	-	1	-	-	-	*			b		a		c	*		1			*	
MAY																											
Mon 1	5.15pm	A	Fulham	L 0-7	19,538	1,879	6	-	-	-	-	-	*		y	y			*		y				yc	*	
Sat 7	12.30pm	H	Reading	W 1-0	10,070	1,032	6	-	-	-	-	-	*		*				1	a	*	c			b	*	

KEY: ■ Starting XI ■ Substitute • Unused sub y: yellow card r: red card p: penalty scorer *: penalty missed *: lost 0-3 on penalties

	LOCKYER	BURKE	MPANZU	CLARK	PEREIRA	KOSO	ISTED	CAMPBELL	LANSBURY	ONYEDINMA	STEER	MUSKWE	INGRAM	THORPE	BELL	NEUVILLE	HORLICK	OSHO	BECKWITH	JEROME	JONES	MCANNETT	FRANCIS-CLARKE	PALMER	SUB TIMES					SENT OFF		GOAL TIMES
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	35	36	37	40	41	a	b	c	d	e	L#	O#	
			c		*				c	1b		a							*		*				78	82	85	-	-	-	-	30, 68, 71
				b		*	c	y				1b						y		1a	*	*			72	72	79	-	-	-	-	2, 5, 26, 40
			1	b	*	c	yc	a	a									y		d					46	60	74	89	-	-	-	5, 36, 66, 70, 98
	b					*	*	y				yc			1			b		a					69	88	90	-	-	-	-	4
					a	*	b		b									*		c					28	46	57	-	-	-	-	7, 26, 47, 84, 88
	*				*		a		b			b													83	84	-	-	-	-	-	
	*				*		a	ay										y		y					11	46	59	-	-	-	-	27, 31, 73, 98
					*			y										*		b					63	63	74	-	-	-	-	57, 91
				a	*			y							a			a		b		*			61	76	89	-	-	-	-	7, 15, 23, 63, 86, 92
					*													a		c					46	71	75	-	-	-	-	17, 31, 64
		*					*	*										c		b					71	71	80	-	-	-	-	3, 18, 30, 45+7, 58
		*		b			*	b	*									*		ay					66	73	87	-	-	-	-	
	d	d	y	b				b	*			c								a					68	76	79	87	-	-	-	11, 53
		*	y	b				c	a	1		b													31	31	65	-	-	-	-	20, 48, 60, 83
		c	a				*	c	*											b					22	46	78	-	-	-	-	17
	y	*					*	a	c			b			y										46	46	70	-	-	-	-	27, 45+3
		a		c			*	y	ay	*										c					55	81	89	-	-	-	-	15, 57, 60, 62
				*				y	b			a						c	*	*					63	64	80	-	-	-	-	34
	y		y	b			*	b	y			a			*			*		b					68	79	-	-	-	-	-	10, 55
		*		1			*	c	a			a			*			*		*					74	74	87	-	-	-	61	
							*	c	a						a					*					57	66	84	-	-	-	-	10, 64, 77
			a	1	*		*	a	*			b						*							46	77	82	-	-	-	-	42, 54, 91
								y	b	a		a						b		*					78	78	-	-	-	-	-	19, 62
			c	d				b	ya	d					c			*		1b					60	61	71	71	77	-	-	18, 50, 82, 88
		b						1a	c	a								b		c					60	65	82	-	-	-	-	30, 42, 51, 78, 97
			a					1c	a	b								c		b					69	74	79	-	-	-	-	33, 58
		r		b				*		*		c			b				c		a				54	60	63	-	-	61	-	48, 51
	1c						c	y	a	*	b		b												61	61	87	-	-	-	-	42, 56, 68
	y	*					*	c	a			a								b					70	70	83	-	-	-	-	
	*	y						yc	a	*										b					63	63	81	-	-	-	-	72
		1					y	*	d	yc	a	*	1		a	c	*			b			*	*	69	78	85	85	-	-	-	14, 23, 88
	*						b		1y	a	*							a							55	80	85	-	-	-	-	28, 44, 59
	a						c		b	b	*							c	y	*					57	57	75	-	-	-	-	25, 46, 69
							c		y	1	a	*	a		y					1b					63	85	89	-	-	-	-	55, 82
	y	y					b		y	b	*	*								a	1				75	93	-	-	-	-	-	56, 82, 92
		y					*		a	c										b	y				51	59	78	-	-	-	-	67
		1					*	a	c			a	y	d	*				a		b				14	62	63	76	76	-	-	2, 27, 40, 68, 78
			b				*	*	c	ay										y					39	65	73	-	-	-	-	17, 87, 96
		y		c			*	b	c			*			y					ay					60	70	85	-	-	-	-	38
			a	c			*	a	*											b					15	74	81	-	-	-	-	37, 55, 83
							*	y	*	a	1	*	*												23	77	81	-	-	-	-	9, 28, 42, 59
	b		a	y			y	b	*	*										c					51	52	75	-	-	-	-	9, 56, 72, 92
			c				*	*		a										b					64	83	83	-	-	-	-	25, 33, 81, 87
		y					*	*	a	c										a					32	82	90	-	-	-	-	49, 87
			a				*	*	b	y	*	*													35	58	81	-	-	-	-	59, 89
	c	y					b	*	y	y	*	*	*												65	81	93	-	-	-	-	37
							c	b	*	c															43	45	61	-	-	-	-	71
									b			a	*							c					66	76	81	-	-	-	-	2, 55
	y			c			a	*		a		b		*						b					31	64	67	-	-	-	-	29, 39, 54, 62, 65, 79, 92
	*						*	b				a								c					67	78	90	-	-	-	-	45

KEY: : Out on loan | : Left club | Team name colour: Carabao Cup Match | Team name colour: FA Cup Match

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HATTERS PLAYER STATS 2021-22

	2021-22 SEASON											CAREER	
	LEAGUE			CUP			TOTAL		CARDS			TOTAL	
	APPS	G		APPS	G		APPS	G				APPS	G
Elijah Adebayo	38	(2)	16	1	(0)	1	39	(2)	17	6	0	59	22
Sam Beckwith	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	1	0
Amari'i Bell	40	(1)	1	2	(1)	0	42	(2)	1	3	0	44	1
Luke Berry	10	(3)	6	1	(1)	1	11	(4)	7	2	0	137	21
Sonny Bradley	20	(2)	2	1	(0)	0	21	(2)	2	2	1	154	5
James Bree	42	(0)	1	1	(0)	0	43	(0)	1	5	0	112	2
Reece Burke	25	(2)	0	3	(0)	2	28	(2)	2	6	1	30	2
Allan Campbell	31	(2)	4	0	(4)	0	31	(6)	4	8	0	37	4
Jordan Clark	19	(6)	2	1	(0)	0	20	(6)	2	2	0	65	5
Harry Cornick	30	(8)	12	1	(2)	1	31	(10)	13	4	0	210	36
Danny Hylton	5	(12)	4	0	(3)	0	5	(15)	4	4	0	168	62
Matt Ingram	2	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	0	0	2	0
Harry Isted	1	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	1	(2)	0	2	0	5	0
Cameron Jerome	14	(17)	0	3	(1)	2	17	(18)	2	5	0	35	2
Peter Kioso	8	(8)	3	3	(0)	0	11	(8)	3	3	0	22	3
Henri Lansbury	18	(16)	0	2	(0)	0	20	(16)	0	10	0	36	0
Elliot Lee	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	124	30
Tom Lockyer	27	(2)	0	3	(0)	0	30	(2)	0	5	0	55	0
Carlos Mendes Gomes	2	(7)	1	4	(0)	1	6	(7)	2	0	0	13	2
Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu	31	(3)	0	0	(1)	0	31	(4)	0	3	0	333	19
Admiral Muskwe	7	(13)	1	3	(0)	2	10	(13)	3	3	0	23	3
Kal Naismith	42	(0)	0	1	(0)	1	43	(0)	1	8	0	66	2
Fred Onyedinna	14	(15)	2	1	(1)	0	15	(16)	2	4	0	31	2
Gabriel Osho	16	(7)	3	3	(0)	0	19	(7)	3	4	0	27	3
Alex Palmer	2	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	0	0	2	0
Dion Pereira	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	2	0
Dan Potts	9	(1)	0	2	(0)	0	11	(1)	0	2	0	188	11
Glen Rea	8	(4)	0	1	(0)	0	9	(4)	0	4	0	207	8
James Shea	19	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	21	(0)	0	1	0	106	0
Simon Sluga	19	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	19	(0)	0	1	0	94	0
Robert Snodgrass	4	(4)	0	0	(1)	0	4	(5)	0	1	0	9	0
Jed Steer	3	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	5	(0)	0	0	0	5	0
Elliot Thorpe	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	1	0



ACADEMY HOST FAMILIES

Luton Town Academy are looking to recruit potential host families to support young players aged between 16-23 years old.

We currently have around 120 young players within the Academy and from time to time some need to stay with host families, allowing them to take the opportunity of full-time employment at the Football Club as either an apprentice or professional player.

We are looking for families who can provide a room (per player) and an evening meal in either a 6 night per week or 7 nights per week agreement, as well as providing a suitable and safe environment.

Transport is provided by the club for each player. It is advantageous if your home is in one of the

following areas: Wigmore, Farley Hill, Leagrave, Bush Mead

If you feel you would be able to successfully support some of our young players, please send an e-mail to kim.pearce@lutontown.co.uk expressing your interest. As part of the recruitment process the Club would complete several visits to determine the suitability of location and to ensure that the home meets the requirements for hosting a young player with the Football Club.

This role will have regular contact with children, and it is therefore required by law to have a DBS Enhanced Criminal Record Check with children's barred list check for all house occupants aged 18 or older.



HAPPY 80TH ANN!

We would like to wish season ticket holder Ann Wright a wonderful 80th birthday for Thursday 19th May.

Ann attends every home match and over the years has travelled to attend away games, including cup finals at Wembley. Her first was on May 3rd 1959 – the FA Cup final against Nottingham Forest. The ticket price was 3s 6d - equivalent cost now 17 and a half pence!

Ann and her best friend made black and white outfits, to match the club's strip at the time, and their picture made it into the papers with the effort they'd gone to for the occasion! We all hope you enjoy tonight's game Ann and have a lovely day next Thursday.



CYRIL REGINALD FRANK PEPPER

The Club was saddened recently to hear of the passing of Cyril who was a very loyal and proud supporter of his beloved Luton

Town Football Club. He passed away on 26th December 2021, aged 96.

Cyril was introduced to the game at a very young age by his father Avalon Frank. After serving in the Fleet Air Arm during World War 2, Cyril returned to Luton and resumed his support for the club, both home and away.

He was a Kenilworth Road season ticket holder for decades and for many years enjoyed pre-match drinks at the Hatters Club with his dear friends, happy times remembered. RIP Cyril - Up The Hatters.

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NATHAN JONES

- 01 JAMES SHEA
- 02 JAMES BREE
- 03 DAN POTTS
- 04 KAL NAISMITH
- 05 SONNY BRADLEY
- 07 HARRY CORNICK
- 08 LUKE BERRY
- 09 DANNY HYLTON
- 11 ELIJAH ADEBAYO
- 12 ROBERT SNODGRASS
- 14 CARLOS MENDES GOMES
- 15 TOM LOCKYER
- 16 REECE BURKE
- 17 PELLY-RUDDOCK MPANZU
- 18 JORDAN CLARK
- 20 PETER KIOSO
- 21 HARRY ISTD
- 22 ALLAN CAMPBELL
- 23 HENRI LANSBURY
- 24 FRED ONYEDINMA
- 26 ADMIRAL MUSKWE
- 27 MATT INGRAM
- 28 ELLIOT THORPE
- 29 AMARI'I BELL
- 32 GABRIEL OSHO
- 35 CAMERON JEROME



CARLOS CORBERAN

- 02 PIPA
- 03 HARRY TOFFOLO
- 04 MATTY PEARSON
- 05 ALEX VALLEJO
- 06 JONATHAN HOGG
- 07 TINO ANJORIN
- 08 LEWIS O'BRIEN
- 09 JORDAN RHODES
- 10 JOSH KOROMA
- 14 JOSH RUFFELS
- 15 SCOTT HIGH
- 16 SORBA THOMAS
- 18 JAMAL BLACKMAN
- 19 DUANE HOLMES
- 20 OLLIE TURTON
- 21 LEE NICHOLLS
- 23 NABY SARR
- 24 DANIEL SINANI
- 25 DANNY WARD
- 26 LEVI COLWILL
- 28 DANNY GRANT
- 31 RYAN SCHOFIELD
- 32 TOM LEES
- 37 JON RUSSELL
- 48 CAREL EITING

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE
ROBERT JONES
ASSISTANT REFEREE 1
IAN HUSSIN
ASSISTANT REFEREE 2
WADE SMITH
FOURTH OFFICIAL
SIMON HOOPER

E-GOLDEN GAMBLE

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Luton Town Football Club's commitment is to promote inclusion and to confront and eliminate discrimination, whether by reason of age, disability, gender reassignment, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief. People can be assured of an environment in which their rights, dignity and individual worth are respected, and in particular that they are able to work and watch football in an environment without the threat of intimidation, victimisation, harassment, bullying and abuse. Should you wish to report a specific incident, please contact your nearest steward or download Kick It Out's free, confidential reporting app on the App Store or Google Play.